

HEARING LOSS/VERTIGO

In the State of Maine, hearing loss traditionally has not precluded driving. The deaf driver (hearing loss > 80dB) and even those with hearing impairments (correctable to no better than 60 dB) lack a warning system which other drivers on the road assume to be present. While it is possible to compensate for lack of hearing with other sensory input, especially visual, some deaf drivers do have an increased accident rate. Supplemental mirrors, warning lights, voluntary restriction to daylight driving, and special training may be required.

Drivers with permanent or unpredictable episodic vertigo not correctable with medications should be evaluated based on the following profile.

FUNCTIONAL ABILITY PROFILE: Vertigo

Profile Levels	Circumstances*	Condition Example	Interval for Review
1.	No diagnosed condition	No known disorder.	
2.	Condition fully recovered & compensated	History of vertigo, asymptomatic at least one year.	N/A
3.	Active impairment: a. Minimal b. Mild c. Moderate d. Severe	 a. Chronic mild vertigo b. Self limiting acute episodic vertigo stable with medication. c. All other vertigo not in (a) or (b), but with potential for recovery. d. Vertigo, the severity of which precludes the safe operation of a motor vehicle.	 a. N/A b. N/A c. No driving d. No driving
4.	Condition under investigation	Newly discovered vertigo.	As needed

* For further explanation refer to page 1